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REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the above-identified patent application. Claims 3, 8-10 and 12-15 remain in the application. Claims 3, 8, 10 and 12-14 are amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

I. Interview

Applicant thanks Examiner Bochna for the courtesies extended to Applicant's attorney during the telephone interview conducted on February 22, 2006. In the interview the applied reference was discussed in view of independent claims 8 and 15. The Examiner agreed that claim 15, directed to the method of mounting a cylindrical conduit on a fitting, is patentable over the applied reference. A proposed amendment was discussed with respect to claim 8, and the Examiner agreed that the proposed amendment to claim 8 appears to define over the applied reference. The amendment to claim 8 is formally presented in this Response.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks Examiner Bochna for the indication that claims 3 and 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 3 and 10 are so rewritten. Claim 10 is additionally amended to recite that at least *one* deformation is a longitudinal rib, instead of reciting that at least *some* deformations are longitudinal ribs. Applicant submits that this language continues to be allowable as it matches the language of allowed claim 3.

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III. Invention Summary

The present invention is directed to a compression cap for connecting a conduit to a fitting. The cap has a generally cylindrical sidewall with one or more inward deformations. As defined in amended independent claim 8, the cap includes a radially inwardly extending shoulder that engages the conduit, and the deformations project radially inwardly from the sidewall to provide a friction fit between the cap and the conduit as the cap is slid onto the conduit. As defined in independent method claim 15, the cap slides onto the conduit before the conduit end is positioned on the fitting, and before the cap is compressed.

IV. Art Rejections

A. Section 102 Rejection Based on U.S. Patent 5,195,788 to Oetiker

Claims 8-9 and 12-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Oetiker.

Oetiker discloses a two-piece connection system for connecting a hose to a fitting. The connection system includes an insert 20 and a compression clamp 40. The clamp is a conventional compression clamp with Oetiker ears. The insert is a cylindrical, partial ring, with a gap that closes when the ring is compressed. The insert includes an inwardly extending, circumferential groove 24. In order to connect the hose to the fitting, the fitting 14 is inserted into the end of the hose 30 until the hose is seated against a collar 13 on the fitting. The insert is then slid over the fitting until an inwardly extending flange 22 is seated against the collar 13 of the fitting, and a portion of the insert extends over the

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end of the hose. The clamp 40 is positioned over the insert and compressed about the insert to secure the hose to the fitting.

With respect to amended independent claim 8, Oetiker does not disclose 1) a one-piece unitary compression cap, 2) a shoulder extending radially inwardly from said a first end of the cap and engaging the conduit or 3) providing a friction fit between the cap and the conduit as the cap is slid onto the conduit. Oetiker is not a one-piece compression cap – it requires both an insert and a clamp to form a secure connection. In addition, although the insert of Oetiker includes an inward flange at one end, it engages the fitting, not the conduit. Finally, the inward deformation of Oetiker creates a secure pipe connection after the insert is crimped, but Oetiker does not state that it forms a friction fit with the conduit as the insert is slid onto the conduit.

With respect to amended independent claim 15, Oetiker does not disclose sliding the compression cap on the end of a conduit, followed by positioning the conduit end on the fitting. Because the inward flange 22 of Oetiker engages the fitting, the Oetiker insert cannot be positioned on the conduit before the conduit is positioned on the fitting.

Because Oetiker fails to disclose all of the elements of amended independent claim 8 and independent claim 15, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection based on Oetiker under Section 102 should be withdrawn.

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B. Section 103 Rejection Based on Oetiker in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art

Claims 5 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Oetiker in view of Applicant's admitted prior art in Figs. 1 and 2.

The inadequacies of Oetiker with respect to the independent claims is noted above. Applicant's admitted prior art fails to resolve the inadequacies of Oetiker. In particular, with respect to claim 8, Oetiker does not disclose 1) a one-piece unitary compression clamp or 2) a shoulder that engages the conduit. With respect to claim 15, Oetiker does not disclose positioning the cap on the conduit, and then positioning the conduit on the fitting.

Applicant therefore submits that the rejection of claims 5 and 12 under Section 103 should be withdrawn.

C. Dependent Claims

The dependent claims further define Applicant's invention and are therefore even more clearly allowable than the claims discussed above. Claim 9 recites that a plurality of deformations are spaced circumferentially around the cap. Claim 13 recites that a shoulder extends around the entire circumference of the first end of the cap. Claim 14 recites that a lip extends radially outwardly from a second end of the cap.

V. Conclusion

In view of the telephone interview, the above amendments, and these remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for

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allowance. A notice to that effect is earnestly and respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

TRANS-MATIC MFG. CO., INC.

By: Warner Norcross & Judd LLP



Chad E. Kleinheksel
Registration No. 53 141
900 Fifth Third Center
111 Lyon Street, NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503-2487
(616) 752-2313

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